



# Conservation Security Program 2005

## USDA - Natural Resources Conservation Service

### Lower Brazos Watershed Fact Sheet

**January 2005**

#### **Conservation Security Program Overview**

The Conservation Security Program (CSP) was authorized by the 2002 Farm Bill to reward farmers and ranchers that are implementing conservation on America's working lands. CSP is a voluntary program based on conservation accomplishments that recognizes the contributions of the best land stewards and encourages them to do more.

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#### **Watershed Approach**

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is implementing CSP on a watershed basis due to restraints on both program and technical assistance funding in 2005. Focusing on high priority watersheds will allow NRCS to provide quality service to more applicants than if the program was implemented nationwide. Priority watersheds were selected based on the following criteria:

- Wide variety of land uses and input intensities
- High-priority resource issues to be addressed
- History of good land stewardship
- Availability of necessary technical tools
- Availability of NRCS staff to implement CSP

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#### **Lower Brazos Watershed**

CSP is being offered in 202 watersheds across the country – 18 of which were selected in Texas for fiscal year 2005. The Lower Brazos Watershed is located along the lower Brazos River in southeast Texas covering an estimated 1,048,442 acres within portions of Austin, Brazoria, Fort Bend, Waller, and Washington counties. The watershed area is a combination of the Texas Blackland Prairie, Texas Claypan Area, Western Coastal Plain, and Gulf Coast Prairies resource areas consisting of rangeland, dry cropland, irrigated cropland, and pastureland as its major land uses.

The map on the following page outlines the general watershed area. Producers in parts of these counties may qualify to participate in the program.

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#### **For More Information**

For more information about CSP, visit your local USDA Service Center, listed in your local directory under U.S. Department of Agriculture or contact Craig Pate, Watershed Manager, Hempstead at 979.826.2448. Information is available at <http://www.tx.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/csp/>

All CSP applications that meet the minimum soil and water quality criteria will be placed in an enrollment category. The Secretary of Agriculture will select the highest ranking categories to be funded. Check the CSP national page at <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/csp> for information on the final rule.

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## Conservation Security Program (CSP) Lower Brazos Watershed

